



# Westward Expansion

(1763-1890)



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_

# **Chapter Goals & Mind**

## **Map**

**Big Question:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Focus Questions:**

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# **Vocabulary**

## **Vocabulary**

1. Proclamation of 1763
2. Cumberland Gap
3. Wilderness Road
4. Louisianan Purchase
5. Louisiana Territory
6. Push Factors
7. Pull Factors
8. Conestoga Wagon
9. Wagon Trains
10. Transcontinental Railroad
11. Oregon Country
12. Oregon Fever
13. Mountain Men
14. Rugged Individualists
15. Rendezvous
16. Missionaries
17. Pioneers
18. Oregon Trail
19. Lone Star Republic
20. Bear Flag Republic
21. Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo
22. Gadsden Purchase
23. Mormons
24. Persecution
25. Forty-niners
26. Indian Removal Act
27. Homestead Act of 1862

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# **Notes**

## **I. Moving West**

- a.** Settlers starting moving west when Europeans first landed in the Americas.
- b.** Britain temporarily put a stop to westward movement with the Proclamation of 1763.
  - i.** Keeping settlers from moving west made it easier for the British to control what was going on in the colonies.
  - ii.** Limiting westward expansion also helped limit conflicts with Native Americans and the French.
- c.** One of the first expeditions deep into the American frontier was lead by Daniel Boon.
  - i.** Boon was hired to cut the Wilderness Road through the Cumberland Gap in the Appalachian Mountains.
    - a.** The Wilderness Road began in eastern Tennessee and ended in what is now Louisville, Kentucky.
    - b.** The Wilderness Road allowed settlers to populate land between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River.
    - c.** Daniel Boon became a symbol of the qualities needed on the frontier: courage, determination and self sufficiency.
- d.** Americans continued moving westward after the Louisianan Purchase in 1803.
  - i.** President Thomas Jefferson purchased the Louisianan Territory from France for \$15 million dollars.
  - ii.** Jefferson sent the Lewis & Clark expedition west to explore the Louisianan Territory and map a route to the Pacific.
  - iii.** The Lewis & Clark opened the rest of the American west for settlement and trade.

## **II. Why Settlers Moved West**

- a. Settlers were motivated by a large variety of factors.
- b. Some factors forced people away from their homes in search of a new life. These factors are called *Push Factors*.
- c. Some factors attracted settlers to put down roots in certain locations. Those factors are called *Pull Factors*.

### **i. Push Factors**

#### **a. Growing eastern population**

- a. Lead to competition for jobs in cities and increased demand for land in rural areas.

#### **b. Harsh working conditions**

- a. Harsh conditions in factories and mines pushed settlers to find a better life in the west.

#### **c. Escape from persecution**

- a. Some groups moved west to escape religious or racial persecution.

#### **d. Manifest Destiny**

- a. Belief that Americas had the right and the duty to spread across the continent all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

### **ii. Pull Factors**

#### **a. Opportunity for a better life**

- a. Free or cheap land for farming

#### **b. Opportunity for financial gain**

- a. Fur trapping

- b. Gold mining

#### **c. Spreading religion**

- a. Convert Native Americans to Christianity

- d. Religious freedom
  - a. Chance to practice religion without persecution
- e. Adventure
  - a. A chance to conquer untamed wilderness

### **III. Traveling West**

- a. Modes of Transportation
  - i. Most settlers travel in wagons
    - a. Ex: Conestoga Wagon
  - ii. Groups of wagons traveled together in long lines called wagon trains.
  - iii. By wagon, traveling west took roughly 5 months
- b. Western Trails
  - i. Trails to the Northeast
    - a. Oregon Trail
  - ii. Trails to California
    - a. Old Spanish Trail
    - b. California Trail
  - iii. Trails to the South West
    - a. Mormon Trail
    - b. Santa Fe Trail
- c. Dangers of Traveling West
  - i. Disease, heat, mountains, early snow, crossing rivers, etc...
- d. Improvements in transportation
  - i. In 1862, the first transcontinental railroad was built.
    - a. Built by the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railroad companies
      - a. Central Pacific started in Sacramento, CA and headed east.
      - b. Union Pacific started in Omaha, NB and headed west.

- b. Took 7 years to complete (1869)
- c. The two railroads met in Promontory Summit, Utah
  - a. Connected with a gold spike
- d. The railroad cut the journey west down to just 1 week.

#### **IV. Oregon Country**

- a. By the 1820s, settlers occupied much of the land between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River.
- b. Settlers kept moving west in search of good land.
  - i. Few settled on the Great Plains due to the belief that they were to dry.
- c. Many headed west to the Oregon Country.
- d. Oregon Country
  - i. Location:
    - a. Current states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and parts of Wyoming, Montana, and western Canada
  - ii. Land and Climate:
    - a. Fertile soil
    - b. Mild year round temperatures
    - c. Abundant rainfall
    - d. Dense forest
    - e. Abundance of fur-bearing animals
- e. Oregon Settlers
  - i. 3 Groups
    - a. The first group to travel to west were mountain men
      - a. Mountain men were rugged individualists
      - b. Most mountain men mad a living as trappers
        - i. Trapped animals for fur and sold fur for money
        - ii. Met once a year at rendezvous to sell furs, restock supplies.

- c. Mountain men explored and mapped much of the west
- b. The second group to travel west were missionaries
  - a. First Americans to settle permanently in Oregon
  - b. Traveled west to convert Native Americans to Christianity.
  - c. Missionaries raised interest in Oregon back east.
- c. The third group to travel west was pioneers.
  - a. Pioneers traveled to Oregon in the hope of making a better life.
    - i. Had “Oregon Fever”
  - b. To get to Oregon, many settlers travel along the Oregon Trail.
  - c. Dangers along the way:
    - i. Disease
    - ii. Heat
    - iii. Flash floods
    - iv. Snow (Donner Party)
- d. Dividing Oregon
  - a. Both the U.S. and Britain claimed Oregon
    - i. British Claimed land as far south as California
    - ii. U.S. claimed land as far north as the 54’40’’ parallel in Canada
      - 1. “54’40’’ or Fight!!!”
  - b. Due to looming war with Mexico in 1846, President James K. Polk agreed to compromise with England
    - i. U.S. got everything south of the 49°N parallel
    - ii. Britain got everything north of the 49° parallel

## **V. Texas**

### **a. Settling Texas**

- i. Spain gave Moses Austin permission to settle farmers in what is now Texas.
- ii. After Mexico declared independence from Spain, the Mexican government gave Steven, Moses' son, permission to go through with the plan.
  - a. Mexico wanted farmers to develop land and control Native Americans
- iii. Unfortunately for Mexico, more than 20,000 Americans moved into Texas.
- iv. Mexico feared losing Texas to the U.S.

### **b. The Texas War for Independence**

- i. To assert its control over Texas, Mexican dictator, General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna used the military to enforce laws that had not been enforced in years.
- ii. Furious, in 1836 Texans declared their independence.
  - a. Texas was known as the Republic of Texas
  - b. Nickname was the Lone Star Republic
  - c. Sam Houston was given command of Texas' Army
- iii. Battle of the Alamo
  - a. Part of the Texas Army took refuge in an old Spanish mission called the Alamo
  - b. In the Alamo, 180 poorly equipped Texans and Tejanos were surrounded by 6,000 Mexican troops.
  - c. After 12 days, the Alamo fell.
    1. 1,500 Mexican soldiers died
    2. All 180 Texans and Tejanos were killed (Including Davy Crocket and Jim Bowie)



iv. The Battle of San Jacinto

- a. In April of 1836, Sam Houston and his army were able to take Santa Anna by surprise.
  1. Santa Anna's army was camped by the San Jacinto River
  2. Houston's soldiers attacked shouting the battle cry "remember the Alamo!"
  3. Santa Anna was forced to surrender and grant Texas independence

c. **Annexing Texas**

- i. In the U.S., people were divided on whether or not to annex Texas
  1. Southerners wanted to add Texas because it would be a slave state
  2. Northerners did not want to add another slave state to the Union
  3. In 1845 Texas was finally admitted as a slave state

**VI. California and the American South West**

- a. California and the American Southwest were added by the Mexican War
  - i. Both the United States and Mexico claimed land between the Rio Grande and Nueces rivers in Texas.
  - ii. In 1846, President James K. Polk ordered General Zachary Taylor to set up forts in the disputed area.
  - iii. Fighting broke out between Taylor's soldiers and Mexican soldiers.
  - iv. At President Polk's urging, Congress declared war.
  - v. During the war, Americans living in California declared Independence from Mexico and formed the Bear Flag Republic.
  - vi. The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo brought the war to an end in 1848.

- a. In the treaty Mexico was forced to cede a large piece of land known as the New Mexico Territory
  - b. New Mexico Territory was made up of the current states of California, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado.
- vii. In 1853 the U.S. paid Mexico \$15 million for a piece of land in southern Arizona and New Mexico.
  - a. The land was needed to build a railroad
  - b. This sale became known as the Gadsden Purchase.

## **VII. Americans Rushing West**

- a. Mormons in Utah
  - i. Mormons are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
    - a. The church was founded by Joseph Smith in 1830
  - ii. The Mormons headed west to escape religious persecution
    - a. In 1847, after the murder of Smith, the Mormons were lead to Utah by Brigham Young.
  - iii. Utah was admitted as a state in 1896.
- b. The California Gold Rush
  - i. In 1848, gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill in CA.
    - a. Found by James Marshall
  - ii. By 1849, over 80,000 people rushed to California from all over the world.
    - a. Called forty-niners
  - iii. Very few would find gold
  - iv. Many would stay and settle in CA
  - v. California was admitted as a state in 1850.
- c. Ranchers, Cowboys and Farmers
  - i. Much of the American southwest was used for cattle ranching.

- a. Cattle was raised on ranches and then herded by cowboys north across the plains to railroads.
  - b. Cows were then taken east by railroad to feed growing cities.
- ii. Eventually farmers and cowboys/ranchers would fight for control of land.
  - a. Motivated by the Homestead Act of 1862, farmers headed west for free land.
    - a. Lived in Dugouts and soddies
  - b. Farmers wanted to plant crops and put up fences to protect crops from animals.
  - c. Ranchers & cowboys wanted to keep the Great Plains open so cattle could be mover freely from Texas to northern railroads.
  - d. Eventually farming would take over the Midwest.
  - e. By the 1880s, cattle were kept on large multimillion acre ranches in the south.

### **VIII. Hardship for Native Americans**

- a. America's westward migration spelled disaster for Native Americans.
  - i. Many Native American tribes were forcefully removed from their land and on to reservations.
    - a. Indian Removal Act of 1830
      - a. Trail of Tears (1838)
        - i. Andrew Jackson forcefully marched 15,000 Cherokee from NC, SC, GA, TN & AL to Oklahoma
        - ii. During the 116 day march, 1 out of 4 died.
  - ii. Many Native Americans were killed during a series of wars known as the Indian Wars

- a. Indian Wars (1860s-1890s) were fought between the U.S. Army and Native Americans.
    - a. The Battle of Little Bighorn, 1876
    - b. The Battle of Wounded Knee, 1890
- iii. Native Americans also died of disease and starvation.
- iv. Native American population:
  - a. 1492: 5-8 million
  - b. 1900: 237,196 (According to Census)